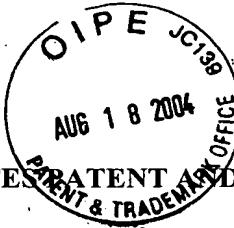


Docket No. 243044US3



IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Shinji ASAMI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/666,240

GAU: 2852

FILED: September 22, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: BINDING APPARATUS, PAPER PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with discussions on August 4, 2004 with Mr. Nicholas P. Godici, Commissioner for Patents, it is no longer required to submit copies of cited pending applications. A modification of the Rules will be published soon in the Official Gazette. Cited issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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LIST OF RELATED CASES

<u>Docket Number</u>	<u>Serial or Patent Number</u>	<u>Filing or Issue Date</u>	<u>Inventor/Applicant</u>
243044US3*	10/666,240	09/22/03	ASAMI et al.
253435US2	10/849,813	05/21/04	HATTORI et al.

*Present Application; listed for information

GJM/akh

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